1

5 6 7

9 10

8

11 12

13 14

1516

17 18

19

20

21

2223

2425

26

27

///

HHH

AUG - 2 2013

AUG - 2 2013

RICHARD W WIEKING V V

ONLINE TO COURT

ONLINE COURT

ONLINE COURT

Attorney for Defendant Legal Recovery Law Offices, Inc.

Tel: 619.940.4868 / Fax: 619.546.9490 E-mail: Hunter@HoestenbachLaw.com

Hunter H. Hoestenbach (CA Bar No. 249130)

ADR

E-Filing

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TRUZELLA LITTLETON,

HOESTENBACH LAW 501 W. Broadway Ste. A230 San Diego, CA 92101-3536

Plaintiff,

VS.

ARROW FINANCIAL SERVICES, L.L.C. AND LEGAL RECOVERY LAW OFFICES, INC.,

Defendants.

Case No. C13-3591

DEFENDANT LEGAL RECOVERY LAW OFFICES' NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTION UNDER 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 & 1446

> FILE BY FAX

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that defendant LEGAL RECOVERY LAW OFFICES, INC. ("LRLO"), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446, hereby removes the below described state court action to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco / Oakland Division. In support of this removal, LRLO states:

- 1

Littleton v. Arrow

Def.'s Notice of Removal

KAW

5

6 7 8

9 10

12 13

11

14 15

16 17

18 19

20

21

22 23

24 25

27

26

ННН

- 1. This action arises out of Contra Costa County, California.
- 2. On June 25, 2013, a lawsuit was commenced in the Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa, under Case No. MSL13-02228 and entitled Truzella Littleton vs. Arrow Financial Services, L.L.C., et. al. A true and correct copy of the Summons, Complaint, and all other process, pleadings and orders served upon LRLO are attached hereto as Exhibit 1. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a).
- 3. On July 9, 2013, plaintiff Truzella Littleton served LRLO with a copy of the Summons and Complaint. See Exhibit 1, Summons Personal Delivery Date. Aside from the material in Exhibit 1, LRLO is not aware of any other process, pleadings or orders served upon LRLO in this action.
- 4. LRLO files this Notice of Removal within one year of the date the action was originally filed and within thirty days of receipt of the Complaint. Removal is therefore timely. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(1).
- 5. This Court has original jurisdiction of this civil action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because it arises under the laws of the United States; that is, plaintiff's claims for relief assert violations of federal law under 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692, et. seq. Hence this federal question action may be removed to this Court by LRLO pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).
- 6. Supplemental jurisdiction of any state law claim is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 7. Promptly after filing this Notice of Removal, LRLO will give written notice of the removal to all parties and will file a copy of the notice with the Clerk of the Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).
- 8. LRLO will promptly serve on all parties the supplementary materials specified in Civil L.R. 4-2.
- 9. LRLO reserves the right to supplement this Notice of Removal when additional information becomes available. LRLO further reserves all rights,

Littleton v. Arrow

including but not limited to, defenses and objections as to venue, personal jurisdiction and service. The filing of this Notice of Removal is subject to, and without waiver of, any such defense or objection. Date: July 30, 2013 Respectfully submitted, **HOESTENBACH LAW** By: /s/ Hunter H. Hoestenbach Hunter H. Hoestenbach (SBN: 249130) 501 W. Broadway Ste. A230 San Diego, CA 92101-3536 Tel: 619.940.4868 / Fax: 619.546.9490 E-Mail: Hunter@HoestenbachLaw.com ATTORNEY FOR LRLO HHH Littleton v. Arrow Def.'s Notice of Removal

EXHIBIT 1

HHH

Littleton v. Arrow

- 1 Def.'s Notice of Removal (Exhibit 1)

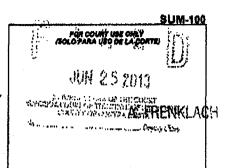
SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

ARROW FINANCIAL SERVICES, L.L.C. AND LEGAL RECOVERY LAW OFFICES, INC.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

TRUZELLA LITTLETON



NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summore and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A tetter or phone cell with not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the Celliannia Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courlinfo.cs.gow/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clark for a fee walver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and properly may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other lagal requirements. You may went to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service, if you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a notiprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.sewheipselifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Heip Center (www.coursinfo.ce.gowleelfreip), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case, The court's lian must be paid before the court will dismiss the case, JAVISOI Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 citas, to corte puede decidir en su contra sin escucher su version. Les la información a contraction.

continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papelas legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corre y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carte o una liamación de la projecta. Su respuesta por escrito en esta con la montra legal correcto al desea que procesen au caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para au respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en al Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de Celifornia (www.sucona.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de legas de su condado o en la corte que le quede más carca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida el escretario de la corte que le dá un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respueste a llempo, puede parder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte la podrá quilar su suelida, dinero y bienes sin más adventencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla pon los requisitos para obtener servicios legales con fines de fuero. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de sucro en el sitto web de Celifornia Legal Services. (www.iswhelpositiomia.org), en al Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de Celifornia, (www.sucorte.ea.gov) o poniendase en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho e reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen aobre quelquier recuperación de \$10,000 é más de velor reclaida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de entitraje en un ceso de derecho civili. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte entes de que la corte puede desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of Contra Costa CASE NUMBER 7 3 - 0 2 2 2 8

725 Court Street

Martinez CA 94553

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número de feléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Todd M. Friedman, 369 S. Doheny Dr., #415, Beverly Hills, CA 90211, 877-206-4741

DATE: (Feche)	JUN 2 5 2013	Clerk, by (Secretario)	A. FRENKLACH	, Deputy (Adjunto)
(For proof of service of this :	summons, use Proof of Service (este citatión use el formulario P	of Summons <i>(form POS-0)</i>	(0).)	
(PEAL)	NOTICE TO THE PERSON 1. as an individual de	SERVED: You are served	i	
	under: LXI CCP 416.	.10 (corporation) .20 (defunct corporation) .40 (association or partner	CCP 416.60 (mino CCP 416.70 (coma hip) CCP 416.70 (author)	r): ervatėė)
	4. by personal delive	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	7/9/13	<u>Page 1 of 1</u>
Marin Adopted for Mandatory Use Judicial Council of California BUN-100 [Rev. July 1, 2000]		SUMMORS	Code of Chi	Frecedure §6 412.20, 465 www.cogreento.co.gov
				American Legarital, Inc.

Todd M. Friedman (216752)
Nicholas J. Bontrager (252114)
Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman, P.C.
369 S. Doheny Dr. #415
Beverly Hills, CA 90211
Phone: 877-206-4741
Fax: 866-633-0228
tfriedman@attorneysforconsumers.com
nbontrager@attorneysforconsumers.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

JUN 25 2013

PER LOCAL RULE 5 THIS CASE IS ASSIGNED TO DEPT_ 7

SUMMONS SSUED

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA LIMITED JURISDICTION

TRUZELLA LITTLETON,

Plaintiff.

2

3

5

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

VS.

ARROW FINANCIAL SERVICES, L.L.C. AND LEGAL RECOVERY LAW OFFICES, INC.,

Defendants.

Case No.

213-02228

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION
OF ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT
COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT AND
FEDERAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION
PRACTICES ACT

(Amount not to exceed \$10,000)

- Violation of Rosenthal Federal
 Fair Debt Collection Practices Act as to
 both Defendants
- 2. Violation of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act as to Defendant Legal Recovery Law Offices, Inc. only

1. INTRODUCTION

BY FAX

1. This is an action for damages brought by an individual consumer for Defendant Arrow Financial Services, L.L.C. and Defendant Legal Recovery Law Offices, Inc.'s violations of the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Cal Civ Code § 1788, et seq. (hereinafter "RFDCPA") and Defendant Legal Recovery Law Offices, Inc.'s violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692, et seq. (hereinafter "FDCPA"), both of which prohibit debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair practices.

Complaint - 1

II. PARTIES

- Plaintiff, Truzella Littleton ("Plaintiff"), is a natural person residing in Contra Costa county in the state of California, and is a "consumer" as defined by the FDCPA, 15
- U.S.C. §1692a(3) and is a "debtor" as defined by Cal Civ Code §1788.2(h).

١

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

13

14

15

16

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

- At all relevant times herein, Defendant, Arrow Financial Services, L.L.C., ("Defendant Arrow") was a company engaged, by use of the mails and telephone, in the business of collecting a debt from Plaintiff which qualifies as a "debt," as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(5), and a "consumer debt," as defined by Cal Civ Code §1788.2(f). Defendant Arrow regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another, and therefore is a "debt collector" as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6), and RFDCPA, Cal Civ Code §1788,2(c). 11 12
 - At all relevant times herein, Defendant, Legal Recovery Law Offices, Inc. ("Defendant LRL") was a company engaged, by use of the mails and telephone, in the business of collecting a debt from Plaintiff which qualifies as a "consumer debt," as defined by Cal Civ Code §1788.2(f). Defendant LRL regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another, and therefore is a "debt collector" as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6), and 17 RFDCPA, Cal Civ Code §1788.2(c). 18 III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS 19

- At various and multiple times prior to the filing of the instant complaint, including within the one year preceding the filing of this complaint, Defendant Arrow hired Defendant LRL to contact Plaintiff in an attempt to collect an alleged outstanding debt. (Both parties referred to as "Defendants" collectively herein.)
 - On or about February 2, 2013, Plaintiff received an Earnings Withholding Order and Writ of Execution. Defendant LRL was attempting to collect on a judgment it obtained on

Complaint - 2

behalf of Defendant Arrow against Plaintiff. Plaintiff had no prior knowledge of the judgment and had not had contact with either Defendant LRL or Defendant Arrow before that day.

- 7. On or about February 13, 2013, Plaintiff called Defendant LRL regarding the judgment. Plaintiff spoke to Kathy, an employee of Defendant LRL who stated that their client had requested the file back and advised Plaintiff to contact the creditor. Kathy told Plaintiff that the creditor was GE Money Store, but told Plaintiff that she did not have their phone number.
- 8. After speaking with Kathy, Plaintiff looked for GE Money Store's phone number on the internet. On February 22, 2013, Plaintiff called 866-419-4096 in attempt to get information about the debt. Plaintiff learned that the debt in question was a debt allegedly owed by her ex-husband of twelve years. Plaintiff is not in contact with him and is not responsible for the alleged debt in question.
- 9. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Arrow and Defendant LRL attempted to collect a debt from her by obtaining a judgment, without properly serving Plaintiff with a lawsuit.
- 10. §1788.17 of the RFDCPA mandates that every debt collector collecting or attempting to collect a consumer debt shall comply with the provisions of Sections 1692b to 1692j, inclusive, of, and shall be subject to the remedies in Section 1692k of, Title 15 of the United States Code statutory regulations contained within the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692d, and §1692d(5).
- Both Defendants' conduct violated the RFDCPA in multiple ways, including but not limited to:
 - a) Collecting/Attempting to collect a consumer debt from Plaintiff by means of judicial proceedings, where the debt collector knew that service of process, which was essential to jurisdiction over Plaintiff or his property, had not been legally effected (Cal Civ Code § 1788.14(a));

28

- b) Falsely representing or implying that nonpayment of Plaintiff's debt would result in the seizure, garnishment, attachment, or sale of Plaintiff's property or wages, where such action is not lawful or Defendant did not intend to take such action (§1692e(4));
- c) Threatening to take an action against Plaintiff that cannot be legally taken or that was not actually intended to be taken (§1692e(5));
- d) Engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse Plaintiff (§1692d));
- e) Falsely representing the character, amount, or legal status of Plaintiff's debt (§1692e(2)(A)); and
- f) Using false representations and deceptive practices in connection with collection of an alleged debt from Plaintiff (§1692e(10)).
- 12. As a result of the above violations of the FDCPA and RFDCPA, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer injury to Plaintiff's feelings, personal humiliation, embarrassment, mental anguish and emotional distress, and both Defendants are liable to Plaintiff's actual damages, statutory damages, and costs and attorney's fees.

COUNT I: VIOLATION OF ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT AS TO BOTH DEFENDANTS

- 13. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.
- 14. To the extent that Defendants' actions, counted above, violated the RFDCPA, those actions were done knowingly and willfully

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be entered against both Defendants for the following:

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendants conduct violated the RFDCPA;
- B. Actual damages;
- C. Statutory damages for willful and negligent violations;

- D. Costs and reasonable attorney's fees,
- E. For such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

COUNT II: VIOLATION OF FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT AS TO DEFENDANT LRL ONLY

15. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be entered against both Defendants for the following:

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendants' conduct violated the FDCPA;
- B. Actual damages;
- C. Statutory damages;
- D. Costs and reasonable attorney's fees; and,
- E. For such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

PLAINTIFF HEREBY REQUESTS A TRIAL BY JURY

Respectfully submitted this 25th day of June, 2013

By:

Todd M. Friedman, Esq. Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman, P.C. Attorney for Plaintiff

		CM-010				
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY Augus, Side But Todd M. Friedman, Esq. SBN 216752	Aumhor, and address):	PON COUNT USE ONLY				
Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman	RON COUNT USE ONLY					
369 S. Doheny Dr. #415						
Beverly Hills, CA 90211	FAX NO.: 866-633-0228	(E)				
TELEPHONE NO.: 877-206-4741	JUN 25 2013					
ATYORNEY FOR (News): Plaintiff, Truzella Li						
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF CO	STATEMENT CONTRACTOR OF CALIFORNIA CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR TRACTOR TRACTOR CALIFORNIA CONTRACTOR ACCORDANT A					
STREET ADDRESS: 725 Court St.	COUNTY SPECIALTRA COSTA					
MARING ADDRESS:	A					
CITY AND 217 COPE: Martinez, 94553	A. FRENKLACH					
BRANCH NAME:	Y' FHEINIGHT.					
CASE NAME: Truzelia Littleton v. Arrow Financia	1					
		CASE HUMBER:				
CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET	Complex Case Designation	A 4 9 A C A A A				
Unlimited Limited	Counter Joinder	113-02228				
(Amount (Amount demanded is	Filed with first appearance by defen	JUDG#:				
demanded demanded is sxceeds \$25,000 or less)	(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3,402)					
	ow must be completed (see instructions					
1. Check one box below for the case type that best describes this case:						
Auto Tort	Contract	Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation				
Auto (22)	Breach of contract/werranty (06)	(Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.400-3.403)				
Uninsured motorist (46)	Rule 3.740 collections (09)	Antitrust/Trade regulation (03)				
Other Pt/PD/WO (Personal Injury/Property	Other collections (09)	Construction defect (10)				
Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort	Insurance coverage (18)	Mass tort (40)				
Asbestos (04)	Other contract (37)	Securities litigation (28)				
Product liability (24)	Real Property	Environmental/Toxic tort (30)				
Medical majoractice (45)	Eminent domain/inverse	insurance coverage claims arising from the				
Other PMPD/MO (23)	condemnation (14)	shove listed provisionally complex case				
Non-PI/PD/ND (Other) Tort	Wrongful eviction (93)	types (41)				
Business tort/unfair business practice (07	Other real property (26)	Enforcement of Judgment				
Clvir rights (08)	Uniawful Detainer	Enforcement of judgment (20)				
Defamation (13)	Commercial (31)	Miscellansous Civil Complaint				
Fraud (16)	Residential (32)	RICO (27)				
intellectual property (19)	Drugs (38)	Other complaint (not specified above) (42)				
Professional regigence (25)	Judicial Review	Miscellaneous Civil Petition				
Other non-PIPD/ND ton (36)	Asset forfelture (05)	Partnership and corporate governance (21)				
Employment	Petition re: arbitration award (11)	Other petition (not specified above) (43)				
Wrongful termination (36)	Writ of mundate (02)	Cities, besilious (not abtenues anose) (40)				
Other employment (15)	Other Judicial review (39)					
the state of the s	law and a de 2 400 of the Collingia B	ules of Court. If the case is complex, mark the				
2. This case is is is is not compactors requiring exceptional judicial management.	pjex under folg 3,400 of the California N dement:	CHARLES COURT IS THE CARROLL OF THE PROPERTY THE PROPERTY OF T				
a. Large number of separately repre		er of witnesses				
		with related actions pending in one of more courts				
b. Extensive motion practice relaing (sauce that will be time-consuming		ities, states, or countries, or in a federal court				
a. Substantial amount of documentary evidence . Substantial postudgment judicial supervision						
3. Remedies sought (check all that apply): a. monetary b. nonmonetary; declaratory or injunctive relief a. punitive						
4. Number of causes of action (specify): 2						
5 This case I is V is not a class action suit.						
6. If there are any known related cases, file a	and serve a notice of related case. (You	may ide form Cay (15.) BY FAX				
	•					
Date: June 25, 2013 Todd M, Friedman	b /					
[OGG (VI, I'TIEGHTAH		BIOLUNG BACK PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)				
	NOTICE					
. Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the	that namer filed in the artism or proceed	ng (except small claims cases of cases filed				
under the Probate Code, Family Code, or Welfare and Institutions Code). (Cel. Rules of Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result						
In sanctions						
File this cover sheet in addition to any cover sheet required by local court rule. If this case is complex under rule 3.400 et seq. of the California Rules of Court, you must serve a copy of this cover sheet on all						
Unless this is a collections case under rule 3.740 or a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for statistical purposes only. **This is a collections case under rule 3.740 or a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for statistical purposes only. **This is a collection or processing.**						
7.00 A COM A POR S AND THE SAME THE SAM						
Perm Adopted for Mundatory Use Judicial Council of California CAL-010 [Rev. July 1, 2007]	CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET	Cal. Standarde of Judican Administrators, no. 9-14				
CAL-010 [REV. July 1, 2007]		North State of Park				

1

3 4

567

8

1011

12 13

14

1516

18

17

19

2021

22

23

24

2526

27

ннн

I, <u>Hunter Hoestenbach</u>, am an attorney licensed in the State of California. My business address is 501 W. Broadway Ste. A230, San Diego, CA 92101. I am over 18 years of age, not a party to the within action, and I am exempt from registration under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 22350(b).

I certify that, on <u>July 30, 2013</u>, defendant Legal Recovery Law Offices, Inc.'s Notice of Removal Under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446 (Re: *Littleton v. Arrow Financial Services, et. al.*, Case# MSL13-02228, Contra Costa County Super. Ct.) was served on all parties or their counsel of record named below by serving a true and correct copy in the manner indicated.

Todd M. Friedman
Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman
369 S. Doheny Dr. Ste. 415
Beverly Hills, CA 90211
877.206.4741 / fax 866.633.0228
tfriedman@attorneysforconsumers.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Debbie P. Kirkpatrick
Sessions, Fishman, Nathan & Israel
1545 Hotel Circle S. Ste. 150
San Diego, CA 92108
619.222.3362 / fax 619.296.2013
dkirkpatrick@sessions-law.biz
Attorneys for Arrow Financial

x FRCP 5(b)(1) & (b)(2)(C): I caused each envelope, with postage thereon fully prepaid, to be placed in the United States mail at San Diego, CA. I am readily familiar with the practice of Hoestenbach Law for collecting and processing correspondence for mailing, said practice being that, in the ordinary course of business, mail is deposited in the United States Postal Service the same day as it is placed for collection.

Executed on July 30, 2013 in San Diego, CA.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: <u>July 30, 2013</u>

/s/ Hunter H. Hoestenbach
Hunter H. Hoestenbach

_ 1 _

Littleton v. Arrow

Def.'s Notice of Removal (Proof of Service)